

## Nicaragua

September 10, 2007

Global Links' fifteenth container of the year, to Managua, Nicaragua, is the 56<sup>th</sup> container that we have sent to Nicaragua since 1989. This container will benefit the 211-bed Hospital Roberto Calderon in Managua. As one of the primary adult surgical hospitals in the country, it is a very busy place. It is the only public hospital offering maxillofacial surgery in the country and it is also the main oncological surgical center. There is a heavy demand on their Emergency Room and critical care services as well. They perform approximately 550 surgeries a month, many of them the specialized procedures unavailable in other parts of the country.

ICU beds and electric beds were their top requests - they wanted to improve patient comfort for recovery after surgery. This container therefore ended up being primarily a container of beds. We were able to send them 40 electric beds, 4 ICU beds, 2 gurneys, about 20 boxes of specialized orthopedic and maxillofacial instruments and other materials they requested, and some bulk hospital linens and soap.

Ministry of Health and PAHO officials in Nicaragua took Global Links staff members to this hospital on our visit to the country last year to show us a key public hospital with critical needs. We are hoping this is the first of several shipments to this large and very important hospital, so that we can have an even greater impact on the patients they serve.